(6) Agricultural schools should also be opened for giving practical instruction in agriculture.

(7) Night schools should be opened to educate adults in the three Rs.

(8) The period of instruction in primary schools should be fixed between 8 to 10-30 A. M. and 2 to 4 P. M. every day.

(9) The curricula of studies in primary schools should be made easier.

(10) The old *Kalari* system should be revived for giving physical training to pupils.

(11) Domestic economy and child welfare should be taught in girls' schools.

(12) Primary education should be made compulsory in the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Matevan Pillai Nilakanta Pillai, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരിഷ്കരണ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെല്ലാം നോട്ട് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

[Your views about the reform of the system of education are noted.]

**53. Suggestions for the improvement of the Vernacular Literature.**

MR. P. C. PADMANABHAN TAMPI (*Municipal Council, Haripad*) made the following suggestions for the development of vernaculars in the State:

(1) All Government correspondence except correspondence with outsiders should be in the vernaculars. The one serious obstacle in this direction was the ignorance of certain heads of departments and offices in the vernaculars. All officers should therefore be required to study the vernaculars and their knowledge tested by examinations.

(2) A high and refined style and diction of the vernacular language should be adopted in Government publications such as the Gazette, the Administration Report, the Proceedings of the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Agricultural Magazine. The members of the Council and the Assembly should also co-operate with the Government in the matter. Whenever names were written in English, their correct spelling in the Vernacular also should be given. Otherwise they were misread.

(3) Special attention should be paid to the selection of text books. The Government was the final authority in prescribing text-books. In British India, text books for all classes except the School final class were selected by the Headmasters of the schools from among the books approved by the Text Book Committees. In Travancore also, similar powers should be given to the Headmasters. For the Vernacular School Leaving and Higher Examinations, the power might be reserved with the Government or the Director of Public Instruction. Membership on the Text Book Committees should not be confined to the officers of the Education Department. Literary men in other walks of life should also have chances of becoming members.

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Incidentally, the member referred to the delay in the distribution of Malayalam Readers among the Assistant Inspectors. Every year the books were available only 2 or 3 months after the reopening of the schools after the midsummer recess. The member requested that steps be taken to prevent such delay and also suggested the desirability of entrusting the sale of the Readers to private agencies. It was derogatory to the Government to conduct the business themselves as ordinary merchants. If the sale be entrusted to private agencies there would be a saving on account of the cost of the staff employed to attend to the work.

(4) The minima of marks in English and Vernacular languages for purposes of entry into public service and for success in examinations should be raised.

(5) A committee should be constituted for compiling a standard dictionary and a book on vernacular idioms and other works calculated to improve the vernaculars. The work of the committee would be lightened by the dictionaries that were being compiled by the Head Translator to Government and one Mr. Padmanabha Pillai of Srikantesvaram.

(6) Knowledge of the vernaculars should be made compulsory for all appointments in the public service.

(7) Grants should be awarded to libraries, reading rooms and other institutions intended to advance vernacular language and literature.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi, I do not think that any one will disagree with your opinion that the vernaculars deserve all the encouragement that it is possible for the people of this State to give and also for the Government to give. I do not think there is any difference of opinion on that point. But as to how far and in what directions changes are to be made for that purpose is a question that will give rise to serious differences of opinion. You must have noticed, in recent years, how the Government have been trying in various ways to advance the interests of the vernaculars, how, in various directions, the vernaculars have, as it were, encroached upon what was considered to be till recently the sphere of English. The proceedings of the Government in many cases are, when they are promulgated in English, at least translated into the vernaculars, and when they are published, they are published in all the three languages that is, English, Malayalam and Tamil. I can say that we can all hope that gradually, year after year, the province of vernaculars will get widened. You said that sometimes the writing of names of localities in Travancore in English characters leads to funny mistakes. I suppose almost all of us at one time or another have come across such mistakes. The remedy, however, is very easy. Whenever the name of a place, which is not familiar, has to be mentioned, besides writing it in English characters, I suppose it is very easy to write the name in the vernacular too. That will not be very difficult.

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Your main theme was about Text-Book Committees. There again, nobody will deny the importance of the work of the Text Book Committee, or the practical difficulties in always selecting the best books. You said that Text Book Committees should not be constituted merely of educational authorities. A little while ago, another member said that Text Book Committees should not be constituted of merely literary men. I think there is some truth in both these statements. It is necessary to have educational authorities on the Text Book Committees because it is they alone who are, as it were, in everyday contact with the intelligence of the children, who can really fix the standard of the text book for each class. An eminent writer will perhaps be carried away more by his admiration of elegant language and is likely to ignore the standard of capacity of little children who may have to study those text books. It seems to me that in this too, as in all other things, a golden mean is the best. And we have a committee consisting of educational authorities and literary men.

With regard to the examinations, you said that the minima of marks for passes in the vernaculars should be raised. I have expert opinion that there is no necessity for raising it. By analogy, of course, in an English country, the minimum for passing the English language should be raised. As a matter of fact, we do not find it. The expert opinion is that it is not necessary to raise the minima of examination marks in the English language.

You then mentioned the dictionary. I did not know that there was a dictionary in the making by the Head Translator. I have always thought that that was more a matter for literary men than for the Government to take up. And now I am glad to find there is a Dr. Johnson among us. The only thing for the Government to do is to render such help as it is possible and proper for them to give. That I am sure Government will give.

There are a few other valuable suggestions made by you. These will also be carefully considered.

### 54. Communications in the Peermade taluk.

MR. N. K. P. P. ROWTHER (*Peermade taluk*) said that Peermade was the centre of the planting district, besides being a sanatorium and summer resort. But want of communications and facilities for easy access was a serious handicap to the planting industry such as cardamom, rubber and tea, the demand for which was growing more and more year by year. The member therefore requested that the following works might be undertaken and finished at an early date:—

(1) Completion of the Kumili-Devicolam road and making it fit for cart traffic. The work might be started at both ends of the road so that it might be finished quickly. Two branch roads from the trunk road should also be opened, one leading to Vandanmettu and the other to Cumbammettu. The distance between the two places would only be about 6 miles.

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